

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 876

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the Lady Wildcats of Livingston Academy on their 2004 TSSAA Class AA Basketball State Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those gifted student-athletes who, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this state; and

WHEREAS, the girls basketball team at Livingston Academy is comprised of such estimable Tennesseans who won the 2004 State Championship; and

WHEREAS, through diligence, dedication, and hard work, they maximized their considerable talents and reached the pinnacle of high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, after beginning their season with a disappointing 68-67 loss to Oliver Springs, the Lady Wildcats posted a decisive 91-52 victory over Pickett County and went on to compile an extraordinary 37-2 record, with the only additional blemishes coming from losses to Class AAA power Sevier County and to Jackson County; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Wildcats would later avenge their only losses to Class AA teams by besting Oliver Springs during a Christmas tournament and Jackson County in the District 7-AA Tournament; and

WHEREAS, as the season neared its end, the Livingston Academy team began to peak at precisely the right point, claiming the District 7-AA and Region 4-AA Tournament Championships and bringing a streak of ten consecutive victories into the State Tournament in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, Livingston Academy opened the State Tournament on March 11 against Gibson County, which carried an unblemished 34-0 record into the tournament; the Lady



Wildcats utilized stifling defense to pull away to a 36-23 halftime lead on the way to an extremely impressive 71-56 quarterfinal win; and

WHEREAS, the semifinals brought a third matchup against Oliver Springs; for the first half, it appeared that the game would be yet another close contest, but the Lady Wildcats took control of the game in the second half to turn a seven-point halftime lead into a thirty-three point margin of victory; and

WHEREAS, the State Championship was yet another rematch, this time against McMinn Central, a team that took Livingston Academy into overtime on December 29, 2003; and

WHEREAS, after leading 20-14 at halftime, the Lady Wildcats held McMinn Central to 27.3 percent shooting in the second half and pulled away to a 50-38 victory; and

WHEREAS, Livingston Academy's thirteenth consecutive victory brought with it the title of TSSAA State Champions; and

WHEREAS, the young ladies who claimed that title were Seniors Katrina Beechboard, Megan Thompson, Kasey Baltimore, and Kellie Thurman; Juniors Krista Clinard, Kristin Hoover, April Handy, and Whitney Sells; Sophomores Megan Brown and Haley Mullins; and Freshmen Ashley Matthews, Jada Ledbetter, Mallie Stephens, and Brittany McCain; and

WHEREAS, Megan Thompson and Kellie Thurman were joined on the All-Tournament Team by Katrina Beechboard, who was honored as Most Valuable Player; and

WHEREAS, the team was ably guided by highly regarded Head Coach Lesley Smith and Assistant Coach Elizabeth Woodard, who helped precipitate the team's unrivalled success by sharing their deep love and great knowledge of the sport; and

WHEREAS, the championship was the first as a coach for Ms. Smith, who helped lead Livingston Academy to a State Championship in 1990 as a player and has now added a new chapter to the storied history of Lady Wildcat Basketball; and

WHEREAS, the coaches and players received invaluable support from Managers Blair Hill, Samantha Sidwell, Tiffany Livingston, and Amber Peek, Statistician Chad Stephens, and Trainer Chuck Wheeler; and



WHEREAS, the ladies of Livingston Academy have ensured that they will forever be remembered as one of the greatest high school teams ever to grace the basketball courts of this state; and

WHEREAS, these ladies epitomize all that is good in today's student-athlete, as they have achieved the highest level of success in sports, while evidencing the most circumspect character both on and off the court; and

WHEREAS, the dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young student-athletes not only made possible a championship basketball season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future endeavor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the 2004 Livingston Academy Lady Wildcats for their success on the court and for serving as a fine example of the high quality of Tennessee's youth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join the administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans of Livingston Academy in celebrating the Lady Wildcats' 2004 TSSAA Class AA Basketball State Championship and honor and commend the talented ladies who achieved this supreme success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish them much continued success and happiness in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.